

THE STAMFORD BRIDGE GROUP OF PARISHES

eastingle

AN ALL AGE SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to our first ever Eastingle Service. We hope you enjoy it!

You've been given an Eastingle pack as you came in – don't open it just yet – you'll find out what to do shortly.

Jesus was a very special person. When he was born, Mary knew he was God's own son. The angels sang Good news to the shepherds on the hill. 'God has sent Someone Special into the world, they said. If you hurry to Bethlehem, you can see him. He's just a baby now, wrapped up warmly and lying in a manger. But one day he will save you from all that is wrong. One day he will bring you peace!'

And when he grew up, people loved him. He told all sorts of great stories – funny ones like the two men who built houses – one on a rock and one on the sand – we all know what happened to the one who built on the sand! Happy stories like the shepherd who spent all night looking for the sheep that had got lost. And thoughtful stories about the man who was robbed, teaching us how to care for our neighbour.

He did really amazing things too. Sometimes he made people better, like the beggar man who couldn't see, and then went dancing away, he was so happy. Or like the old woman who was all bent over – Jesus straightened her out!

And then there was the time that Jesus made a huge picnic lunch for everyone – out of virtually nothing! And the time

when the boat was about to sink, and he told the wind and the waves to stop it, and everyone was safe again.

No wonder people loved him.

We take our hot cross bun and place a straw in the middle for Jesus' life.

Song:

Allelu, Allelu, Allelu alleluia, Praise ye the Lord

Allelu, Allelu, Allelu alleluia, Praise ye the Lord

Praise ye the Lord, Alleluia

Praise ye the Lord, Alleluia

Praise ye the Lord, Alleluia

Praise ye the Lord.

Reading 1: Jesus the King

Jesus and his disciples were on the way to Jerusalem. As they got close, Jesus said to his friends, 'Let's have a parade!' said Jesus to his friends. I want two of you to borrow a donkey, tell the owner I need it. He'll understand.

Soon there were excited people everywhere, They all flocked out of their houses, and waved to Jesus. They didn't have flags, so they found great big leaves off palm trees and waved those instead. Some of them even Some took off their coats and laid them in front of the donkey. They shouted and cheered. They shouted things like - Hooray for the king! Praise to God!

There were hundreds, maybe thousands of people, clapping and dancing and shouting their way through the city gates. It seemed that everyone was happy to see Jesus!

We attach the purple ribbon for Jesus the King

Jesus rode upon a donkey to Jerus'lem
Jesus rode upon a donkey - hooray!
Jesus rode upon a donkey to Jerus'lem
The crowd was happy to see him that day.

Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings
Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King.

Explanation:

You would have thought everyone was happy. But some people were very cross with Jesus. They were the people in charge. You see, Jesus made their lives very uncomfortable indeed. Every time he saw them, he told them off. He told them off because they did things that God didn't like. These leaders made it difficult for ordinary people to go to worship God. They had to pay a lot of money to get into their temple, and the leaders cheated, by taking some of this money for themselves. So if Jesus got his way, then they were going to get poorer.

Reading 3

So they decided that they had to get rid of Jesus. In the middle of the night, when the people were asleep, and only the disciples were with him, they sent some soldiers to arrest him. It was very frightening. The soldiers had clubs and sticks.

And right in front was Judas, who had been one of Jesus' friends. 'This is the man you want!' said Judas. 'Arrest him!' Jesus looked very sad.

Jesus' friends were scared. Most of them ran away. But not Peter. He pulled out a sword and started swinging it about.

'Put your sword away,' said Jesus. 'This is not the time for fighting. I have to go with them. God wants me to.'

The leaders put him on trial and made up terrible lies about Jesus. By the time the people found out, it was too late. Jesus had been taken away. The soldiers put Jesus on a cross and stood it up in the ground. It hurt Jesus very much to be on the cross. But Jesus asked God to forgive the people. And then, he died.

His disciples took his body, wrapped it up carefully and put it inside a tomb. In those days, they used caves. When they had finished, they rolled a big stone in front of the cave, to make it safe. Then they went home.

Explanation:

We remember this sad time on Good Friday (a day we might think should be called bad Friday – and maybe it would have been, but that wasn't the end of the story. It's a day when we

eat Hot cross buns. The cross reminds us of Jesus' death, and the hot doesn't refer to them being warm, but being a bit spicy, because in those days, people were wrapped in spices when they died.

Jesus said: God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that anyone who believes in him will not die, but have everlasting life.

That is why Jesus had to die, so that we could know how much God loves us, and so we can be put right with God.

We attach the red ribbon for danger, death and blood:

Jesus' friends were very sad on Good Friday
Jesus died on the cross that day
Jesus' friends were very sad on Good Friday
Lots of bad things happened on that day.

Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings
Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King.

Prayers:

You might like to write a special prayer on the piece of paper you have been given with your Eastingle pack. When you have done that, you can bring it to put round the cross, and

light a candle. It might be to say thank you Jesus for dying for us, or you might want to pray for someone you love. You can do both if you like!

sing:

There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where our dear Lord was crucified
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin,
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved!
And we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

We say the Lord's prayer together:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Reading 3

For three days, the disciples hid away. They were very sad and very frightened. Jesus, their leader had been killed and his body placed in a rock tomb, which was like a cave, and a big stone had been rolled across the entrance. They wondered if they would be arrested for being his followers. They shut themselves in the room where they had eaten their last meal with Jesus.

Very early on the Sunday morning, some of the women bravely set out to visit Jesus' grave, and decided to visit the tomb. Just as we might put flowers on a grave, they went with special spices, to make the tomb smell sweeter. They were wondering how they could move the great big stone.

They would need help, because it would be too heavy for them to move on their own.

But when they got there, they were amazed. They found that the stone had already been moved! How had that happened? They looked inside, expecting it to be dark and a bit spooky. But instead, the tomb was bright with light. Jesus body was nowhere to be seen, just the sheets he had been wrapped in. And then they saw that the light was coming from two angels. Don't you remember, they said, Jesus said he would come back to life! He has risen, just as he said he would. Go back and tell everyone else about it!

Sure enough, within a few hours, Jesus appeared to the women and the disciples, proving that he had indeed come back to life. So what was bad Friday became Good Friday, because of Easter Sunday. Jesus shows us the way to God, and on Easter Sunday morning, Christians all over the world can say 'Hooray, Jesus is our King! Praise God! Actually, we say Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Explanation:

And in church, we light a big candle, to remind us of the light coming into the darkness.

On Easter Sunday, we might just get given an Easter Egg! A real egg might have chick inside it, and just as Jesus broke out of the tomb, a chick has to fight its way out of the egg.

An egg is a symbol of new life and new hope. Chocolate is sweet, and a great treat! Something that gives us joy and happiness when we eat it. So a chocolate egg reminds us of Jesus breaking out of the tomb, and the happiness of Easter Day.

Dear God, thank you that you love each one of us so much that you sent Jesus so that we might become friends with you. Thank you for making Bad Friday into Good Friday because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.

WE attach the white ribbon

Jesus rose from the dead and I will praise Him
Jesus rose from the dead - hooray!
Jesus rose from the dead and I will praise Him
Celebrations for Easter Sunday!

Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings
Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King.

The Blessing

May Christ, who out of defeat
Brings new hope and a new future,
Fill you with his new life.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be upon you and those you love, now and always.
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen